



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Oxfordshire Bovine TB Cluster Project: Thame-Chinnor Newsletter

Issue 4 (October 2023)

Welcome back to our newsletter for farmers, vets and interested parties who live or work in the **Thame-Chinnor** cluster area of **Defra's Oxfordshire Bovine TB Cluster Project**.

This newsletter is intended to keep you informed about the project and provide you with information on opportunities to get involved in - and benefit from - the array of planned activities. We will also provide you with general information on bovine TB (bTB) control.

Join us for an evening of talks – 23rd November

Join the Thame-Chinnor cluster group for a new, **free** evening of expert talks on **Thursday 23rd November** 6.30pm-9.00pm at the Chinnor Rugby Club, Rectory Pavilion, Kingsey Road, Thame, OX9 3JL.



Food and drink are provided, and talks will cover:

- Future cattle vaccination
- APHA tests for bTB (including eligibility and breakdown management)
- Private testing (Enferplex)
- and more!

For more information and to book your place (**RSVP required**) please email by 10th November: oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk.

Free training for deer managers



On 11th July, Justin Carter hosted an informative evening for deer managers covering post-mortem inspection of deer and how to identify lesions which may be indicative of bTB in wild deer.

With many thanks to Justin, an **additional free training evening for anyone involved in deer management in the cluster area** is now being planned for **8th November**.

If you, or someone who manages deer on your land, would like to attend please email: oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk.

Please get involved to **support your local community in understanding bovine TB (bTB)**.

Reporting suspicion of bTB in wild deer

Reporting suspicion of bTB in animals such as wild deer is legal obligation. The steering group are working on initiatives to help raise awareness of the importance of reporting these cases, as well as making it as easy as possible to do so.

Defra would like to assure you that in the High Risk and Edge Areas of England (including all of Oxfordshire) **confirmation of bTB infection in wild animals will not lead to TB testing changes for cattle herds on the land where the animal was found or neighbouring ground.**

The information gathered by APHA during this reporting process is important. The confirmation of bTB in wild deer can be valuable information used to guide herd management and biosecurity decisions by local cattle keepers. More information about bTB and wild deer can be found on the following information sheet on the TB Hub:

<https://tbhub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/APHA-information-sheet-TB-in-wild-deer.pdf>.

Wildlife cameras

Do you want to find out what wildlife you have on farm so you can tailor your biosecurity measures in practical, cost-effective ways by targeting areas of concern?

Please contact us at the oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk email or contact NorCal vets directly to **borrow the project's wildlife cameras for free**. If you need advice on set up or interpreting the information, please do get in touch.

Stay in touch: sign up to our mailing lists

Email oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk to receive updates including newsletters direct to your inbox or share your mobile number to receive **texts** about upcoming events.

Useful links

- **TB Hub:** is a one-stop shop for all things TB. It has latest advice on biosecurity, TB testing regimes and types of tests, as well as how whole genome sequencing works. Details can be found at: [TB hub - Bovine TB Advice & Tuberculosis Information for Cattle Farmers. \(https://tbhub.co.uk\)](https://tbhub.co.uk)
- **ibTB:** Information bTB (ibTB) is a free-to-access, online interactive mapping tool set up to help cattle farmers and vets understand the level of bovine TB in their local area and manage the risks when purchasing cattle. Details can be found at: [ibTB - Mapping bovine TB \(bTB\) in England and Wales \(https://www.ibtb.co.uk/\)](https://www.ibtb.co.uk/)